



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

At its meeting held February 7, 2006, the Board took the following action:

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The following statement was entered into the record for Supervisor Burke:

"In the United States, Black/African-Americans account for only 12% of the United States population. However, over 49% of AIDS cases reported in 2001 were among Black/African-Americans. In Los Angeles County, Black/African-Americans account for only 10% of the population, yet represent 25% of all AIDS cases.

"AIDS was the leading cause of death in Black/African-Americans ages 25-44 in 2000, and in a recent study in Los Angeles County, a high proportion of Black/African-American men had unrecognized HIV infections. Racism, stigma, drug use, homophobia, gender inequality, and poverty worsen the ordeal of those suffering from, or at risk for HIV/AIDS, so it is important that communities join together to promote tolerance, acceptance, compassion, economic and social justice through honest dialogue regarding the risk of infection and the plight of those infected.

"In an effort to increase HIV/AIDS awareness, education, testing, and early entry to care and treatment services in the Black/African-American communities, a grassroots community based coalition, the National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Coalition (NBHAAD) of Los Angeles, was formed to encourage societal, political and personal changes and promote tolerance, acceptance, compassion, honest dialogue about the risk of HIV infection, and social justice that are conducive to understanding HIV/AIDS.

"The 2006 theme for NBHAAD 'Save a Brother, Save a Sister -- Together We Can: Get Educated, Get Tested and Get Involved!' calls for a commitment to reaching and serving people infected with and affected by HIV/AIDS in all racial and ethnic communities, but focus on the highly impacted Black/African-American community."

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Therefore, at the suggestion of Supervisor Burke, and on motion of Supervisor Molina, seconded by Supervisor Antonovich, unanimously carried (Supervisor Burke being absent), the Board proclaimed February 7, 2006 as "National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day," throughout Los Angeles County to increase and promote understanding of HIV/AIDS as a Black/African-American issue; and encouraged all persons to take part in HIV/AIDS prevention activities and programs to prevent the further spread of HIV/AIDS in all communities within the County.

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Copies distributed:

- Each Supervisor
- Chief Administrative Officer
- County Counsel
- Acting Director of Health Services
- Director of Public Health
- Interim Director, AIDS Programs
and Policy, Department of Health Services